

# MI Urban & Community Forestry Council Meeting

Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> 2008

1:00 pm – 3:00pm

*Conference Call*

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## AGENDA

### WELCOME 1:00pm

- Approve previous meeting minutes
- Approve agenda

### OLD BUSINESS

- FY 07 MI UCF budget
- FY08 USFS Competitive Grants
- Summary from CFM/UCF meeting in Traverse City
- MI UCF Award for Municipalities
- ROOT program
- Arbor Day Celebration
- Tree City/Tree Line USA
- USFS update
- Community Canopy Newsletter

### NEW BUSINESS

- Washington State – Evergreen Communities Act
- Arborist Licensing in MI
- Statewide Analysis for Urban Forestry/ USFS competitive grants
- Annual State of UCF in MI report

### OTHER:

- Research
- On the horizon
- Open discussion
- Next meeting (date/location)

### ADJOURN 3:00pm



*If you are unable to attend the Urban & Community Forestry Council meeting but wish to submit written comments on Agenda items, please write to: Urban & Community Forestry, P.O. Box 30452, Lansing, Michigan 48909 or e-mail at: [sayersk@mi.gov](mailto:sayersk@mi.gov). If you would like further information on Agenda items or would like to address the Council, please call 517-241-4632, or email [sayersk@mi.gov](mailto:sayersk@mi.gov). Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for the meeting should contact Kevin Sayers at 517-241-4632.*

# OLD BUSINESS - UPDATES

## Summary from Joint Urban and Forest Stewardship Meeting

- Traverse City, May 13-15<sup>th</sup> - Theme: *Building bridges across the landscape*
- 1<sup>st</sup> time joint meeting of two committees from National Assoc. of State Foresters
- 70 attendees (28 UCF, 30 FSP, 12 USFS)
- Keynote - Dr. John Ball - South Dakota State Univ.
- Field tour highlighting Long Lake Twp. , private landowners and Sleeping Bear Dunes
- Vic Forester (UCF council chair) and Gerry Grossman (FSP council chair) attended
- Meeting sparked joint resolutions to NAASF and plans for joint committee meetings next year in OH (UCF and Forest Health) and WV (FSP/Wood Utilization)
- Many positive comments



## USFS Competitive Grants

- FY 08 total funds available - \$5.3M (~15% of USFS - NA budget)
- Proposals received - 82 (16 multi-state) requesting \$14.2M
- Proposals funded - 26 (7 multi state; 10 urban)
- MI proposals - 8 (6 funded = \$543K)
- Joint Forest Health and UCF project - Remote Sensed Imagery for Rapid Early Detection of EAB, Beech Bark Disease, Oak Wilt, and HWA in rural Northern MI and WI and urban Traverse City, MI. (\$79K)
- FY 09
  - Approx. same funding available
  - Proposals available - late June/July
  - Deadline for proposal submission - October
  - Awards announced - January 2009

## BUDGET UPDATE:

### FY 07 - \$341K

- \$110K (32%) salaries, fringes, travel, indirect and audit
- \$231K (67%) - grants
  - Arbor Day Mini Grants - \$10K
  - Community Forestry Grants - \$135K
  - Urban Forestry Partnership Grants - \$85K
- \$75K additional for DTE Tree planting grants

### FY 08 - \$305K

- Reduced by 11% due to USFS competitive grant process
- \$130K (40%)– salaries, fringes, travel, indirect and audit
  - partial salary/fringes for EAB Restoration coord. paid using UCF program funds
- \$175K (60%) – grants
  - Arbor Day Mini Grants - \$10K
  - Community Forestry Grants - \$80K
  - Urban Forestry Partnership Grants - \$85K
- \$60-70K additional for DTE Tree planting grants

#### FY 09 -

- Presidents budget for 2009 calls for major cuts to all USFS S&PF programs
- National UCF program scheduled for 82% (\$25M) cut resulting in \$5M budget
- Must pass House and Senate. Each will make their marks (typically add much back)
- Federal cuts (if realized) would severely impact MI UCF program. (eliminate grants)
- Alliance for Community Trees (ACT) and Sustainable Urban Forest Coalition lobbying for greater support and funds for federal program ([www.urbanforestcoalition.org](http://www.urbanforestcoalition.org))

### Urban Forestry Award(s)

- Partnered with ASM in renewing Arboriculture/urban forestry awards program
- Established new award - Excellence in Urban Forestry Award for local governments
- Deadline for accepting nominations - **8/1/08** (presented at ASM conf. 9/18)
- <http://www.arboriculture.citymax.com/Awards.html>
- Evaluation categories:
  1. Program growth/advancement
  2. Program innovation/uniqueness
  3. Special projects
  4. Program sustainability
  5. Partnerships



### ROOT Program

- 1,953 trees distributed in 21 quarantined counties
- Demand was down (late announcement, little media coverage, economy)
- Cities of Lansing, Oak Park, Hillsdale were allowed to purchase remaining trees
- Problem with poor nursery stock quality (esp. oaks). Many complaints
- Lottery vs. 1<sup>st</sup> Come basis for tree purchases – Most prefer 1<sup>st</sup> Come
- New RFP for nurseries required before next program
- Nursery would prefer fall program
- Next possible cycle would not be until Fall 2009 at earliest (timing off for DTE, nursery, DNR)

- Need to expand beyond 21 counties contingent on additional funds/sponsors

## USFS Update

**Lisa Burban- Midwest Reg. Forester**  
lburban@fs.fed.us 651.649.5245

**Jill Johnson - Midwest center coord.**  
651.649.5253 jilljohnson@fs.fed.us

### 2007 US Farm Bill

- Passed by Senate and House, Pres could veto but likely to be overridden by congress
- \$307 billion
- Forestry Title contains following priorities
  - National priorities for private forest conservation
  - Comprehensive statewide forest planning - Priority area for state UCF and FSP programs
  - Community Forest and Open space conservation program - Funds available by 2010
  - Tribal/Forest Service cooperative relations

### Design, Planting & Care

- **Road to a Thoughtful Street Tree Master Plan** - coming soon (UMINN - Forestry)

### Management

- **Best Management Practices for Public Works Managers** - APWA

### Forest Health

- **Livable plants for the home landscape**  
<http://www.dehort.org/pdf/PLD%2007.pdf>
- **Urban Forests of Wisconsin: Pilot Monitoring Project 2002** -  
[http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/fhm/pilot/pilot\\_study\\_wisconsin\\_02\\_lr.pdf](http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/fhm/pilot/pilot_study_wisconsin_02_lr.pdf)
- **Deep Roots of Landscape Trees**  
<http://www.mortonarb.org/deeptreeroots/>

### Outreach & Marketing

- **Community Trees: A living investment** - DVD coming soon from USFS (copy freely)
- **Urban Forestry Index (UFIND)** -  
<http://www.urbanforestryindex.net/>
- **Speakers Bureau** - Listed by: Speaker name/affiliation, Event, Presentation Title/Description

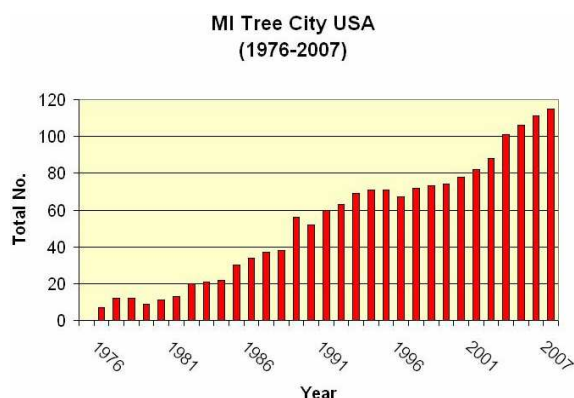
### **On the Horizon:**

- UF Management Planning Workshops - Late summer, early fall: Indianapolis, IN
- Fire Performance Plant Selector
- Tree Owner's Manual publication - later this summer
- Planning and Managing Trees and Other Natural Resources: A Guide for Municipal Commissions
- BMPs for Planners



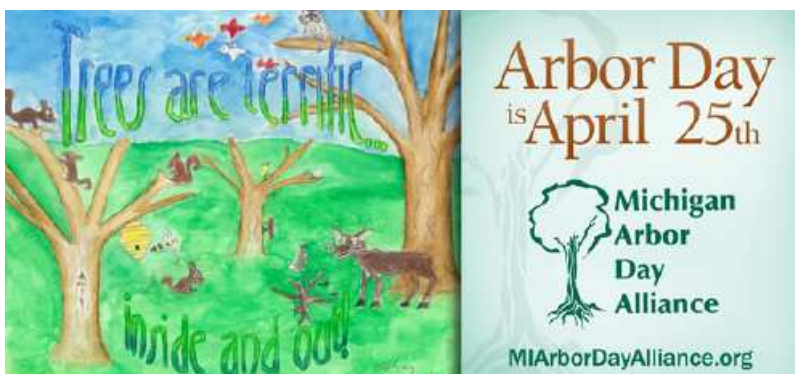
## Tree City/Tree Line USA

- 115 MI communities certified
- Increase of four from previous year
- Five new communities (Dowagiac, Dundee, Gladstone, Lowell, River Rouge)
- Two did not recertify (Flint, Monroe)
- 10 communities received growth award
- Largest - Detroit, smallest - Richland
- Average per/capita expenditure decreased by \$0.77 to \$7.45 from prior year
- Four Utilities recertified: (BWL, Detroit Edison, ITC, UPCO)



## Statewide Arbor Day Event

- Friday April, 25<sup>th</sup> Potter Park/Zoo in Lansing.
- \$25K DNR UCF grant to Eaton Conservation District to administer program
- Rachel Wood - New Arbor Day Coordinator for Michigan Arbor Day Alliance (MADA)
- Ingham County Parks as new partner
- 800 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students attended
- Twenty-four natural resource activity stations
- Statewide Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner on Billboards around state
- New MC - Jason Colthorp (WILX)
- Working on revamping program website



## UCF Program Display:

- Have departmental approval to proceed with purchase/production of brochure/display
- Prefer roll-up banner/screen display for convenience and price (<\$500)
- Need help from committee on design, messages etc.



## NEW BUSINESS

### Evergreen Cities (Washington State)

*As our population grows, trees are replaced with impervious blacktop and concrete. Meanwhile climate change is increasing runoff pollution and flooding. Trees in our cities are one of the most cost-effective ways to improve our water quality, air quality and our quality of life. This proposal ensures the Evergreen State is full of Evergreen cities, towns and counties.*

Update: Evergreen Cities was signed by Governor Gregoire on April 1, 2008.

#### **Benefits**

Healthy and expanded urban forests will be helpful to communities and people across the state:

- Trees reduce runoff, a top Puget Sound pollutant, and can save tax payers over \$2.4 billion in stormwater management.
- The right trees in the right place can reduce energy costs and associated greenhouse gas emissions by 30% for Eastern Washington home and business owners.
- Trees absorb air pollutants that cause asthma and global warming.
- This proposal will increase the number of communities' with strong goals, objectives and management plans for urban trees and the environmental services they provide.

## **2008 Evergreen Cities Act**

The Evergreen Communities Act restores, retains and establishes more trees and forests in our cities, towns and counties by creating:

### **Evergreen Communities Recognition:**

Dept. of Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED) will recognize cities, towns and counties doing superior urban forest planning and management.

### **Model Forest Plans & Ordinances:**

CTED develops eco-regional model urban forest management plans and ordinances to retain trees, restore forest, and expand urban forest canopy to achieve environmental objectives. Local governments may be funded to update or adopt inventories, plans and ordinances.

### **Stakeholder Process:**

CTED will convene an Evergreen Communities task force to advise development of Evergreen Communities recognition, model plans and ordinances.

### **Funding for Local Governments:**

New revenue is generated through voluntary utility ratepayer contributions for evergreen communities to develop and implement urban forest management plans and ordinances, for utilities to increase service reliability, and to leveraging federal funding.

### **Inventory and Assessment:**

The bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to develop a statewide inventory and assessment of our communities' forests to assist local governments with forest plan and ordinance development.

**Lead contacts:** *Heath Packard*, Audubon Washington, 360-790-5680 or [hpackard@audubon.org](mailto:hpackard@audubon.org)

## **Arborist License program for MI:**

- Spearheaded by Paul Dykema (City of Lansing Forester)
- Initiated in response to other industry licensing programs in MI (interior design, beauticians etc.)
- Major goals: 1) improve safety 2) improve professional image of industry
- ~15 person Committee of private, municipal, state gov., and university members
- 2 meetings so far.
- IL currently pursuing similar process (TREE EXPERT LICENSING ACT)  
<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=5775&GAID=9&GA=95&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=37432&SessionID=51>
- Other states in Midwest and Northeast have similar programs and happy to assist/advise MI
- Long-term process (3-5yrs in NJ)
- Paul - Looking for additional support from others (has possible legis. contact to support effort)



## **Statewide Analysis of Urban Forest Canopy:**

- Need to maintain and enhance the benefits that communities in MI derive from trees and forests in urban areas.
- Need to have a systematic method to assess the actual and potential contribution of tree cover in urban areas across the state.
- Goal - Demonstrate a consistent, replicable and effective method of assessing urban tree canopy cover using geospatial resources (GIS, Remote sensing)
- This will yield results that are useful at the local and statewide level for planning, promoting better urban forest management, and maximizing benefits of trees and forests to urban populations
- Assessments will include:
  - Statewide analysis at coarse resolution to identify priority urban areas
  - Detailed community analysis to quantify existing and possible UTC for priority urban areas

## **OTHER**

### **Research Update:**

#### **What Do Foresters Think about Urban Forestry, Urban People, and Cities?**

**Authors:** Ricard, Robert M.; McDonough, Maureen H.

**Source:** Journal of Forestry, Volume 105, Number 6, September 2007 , pp. 285-292(8)

- Urban residents affect forest policy and hence forest management decisions and outcomes.
- In addition, urban forestry has become more visible, integrated, and influential in the Society of American Foresters (SAF).
- However, little is known about what foresters think urban people know about forestry, what emphasis foresters believe should be placed on urban forestry compared with traditional forestry, and what foresters think about the purposes of urban forestry.
- Results of a nationwide mail survey of SAF members suggest that urban forestry is well accepted as a community of interest by respondents,
  - respondents lean more toward loving cities than hating them,
  - respondents believe urban people understand some specific forestry objectives, such as the link between forests and wood products, but not many others.

### **On the Horizon:**

- ASM Tree Evaluation Workshop - June 10<sup>th</sup>, Livonia  
[http://www.arboriculture.citymax.com/tree\\_eval\\_workshop.html](http://www.arboriculture.citymax.com/tree_eval_workshop.html)
- ISA Conference - July 26-30<sup>th</sup>, St. Louis, MO  
<http://www.isa-arbor.com/home.aspx>
- ASM Annual Arboriculture Conference - September 18-19<sup>th</sup>, Frankenmuth, MI  
<http://www.asm-isa.org/Conference.html>



- *Partners in Community Forestry Conference* - November 18-20<sup>th</sup>, Atlanta, GA  
[www.arboday.org/](http://www.arboday.org/)
- UCF Management plan workshops - Aug 20<sup>th</sup> Wilmington, DE; Sept 16 - Leominster, MA; Sept 18 - Indianapolis, IN